

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. It is not in the public's interest, or in the interest of democracy, for Sinclair to attempt to influence election outcomes by playing partisan politics. If Sinclair Broadcasting would like to play a role in this country's election process, then they need to force their stations to air a pro-Kerry or anti-Bush program shortly after showing the anti-Kerry documentary, so that the public gets a balanced view and can make informed choices. What Sinclair Broadcasting is doing is just one glaring example of what happens when large companies control the airwaves.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.